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THE BUSINESS OF LIFE

Life is not, we may say, for mere pleasure, but for the highest unfoldment that one can attain to, to the noblest character that one can grow, for the greatest service that one can render to all mankind.—RALPH WALDO TRINE.

The business of life is the fulfillment of duty. The desire of life is to be happy, and this is attained only by attending to the business of life. Duty is fulfilled by righteous living, and righteous living is attained by doing one's duty. He gets most out of life who puts most into it. He who deposits nothing in the bank of life can draw nothing out of it. So he who says, "I'm going to get out of life all I can" implies that he is not going to deposit anything to his own account, but intends to draw on the accounts of others, with the inevitable result that follows the forging of checks—disaster.

The economy of the universe is such that, notwithstanding what one may think, he can not get something for nothing without sooner or later suffering the penalty of the robber and the thief. This has been proven to be the fact all down the ages, and yet poor, deluded human nature occasionally undertakes to tempt fate by attempting the impossible, reaping where it has not sown. It is therefore strange that men should defy the laws of life by trying to outwit Infinite Wisdom. It never has been done; it never can be done. The economics of existence, of life and being, are such that when one manifests love to those about him it is soon reflected by them. If he extends charity and loving kindness to them, he is rewarded by having his goodness reciprocated. If one wants to have friends, he must be one. All of which is incontestable evidence that we get out of life just what we put into it, and in like proportion. The writer above quoted says, "There is no contagion equal to the contagion of life. Whatever we sow, that shall we also reap, and each thing sown produces of its kind."

Longfellow gives beautiful and spiritual expression to this thought when he says, "As the ice upon the mountain, when the warm breath of summer's sun breathes upon it, melts and divides into drops, each of which reflects an image of the sun, so life, in the smile

of God's love, divides itself into separate forms, each bearing in it and reflecting an image of God's love." And it required the warm sunshine of love to melt the icy peaks of selfishness and greed and send their sparkling waters rippling down to the valleys of discouragement and woe, where they may give drink to the thirsty of poor humanity, inspiring hope, instilling life and nourishing the weary heart. Here is the object of the true humanity-loving heart, the inspiration of the real hero:

"If I can dry one tear today,
Hold back one soul that wants to stray,
Or show to one the higher way,
My life will fuller be."

FAN

It is interesting to many of us to note the growth of our vocabulary, to see new meanings attached to old words. If one looks up the word "fan" in the older dictionaries he will find that the term refers to a contrivance for fanning the person to keep it cool, or that it refers to a machine for producing a current of air, etc. To "fan" wheat, for instance, meant to run the wheat through a machine whereby the chaff would be fanned, or blown, from the wheat.

The word has grown to have a different meaning, especially in athletic and other usage. A "fan" is now recognized as an enthusiast in something of an athletic nature—or, for instance, one may be an "opera fan." In reality it seems that a "fan" is one who gets a thrill out of some phase of athletics or art. The word will be with us for some time to come because it appears to "fill the bill" exactly.

Not long ago a party wrote The Pathfinder editors for the origin of the term "fan," and they answered as follows:

The word "fan" in the sense of an enthusiast over baseball, football, radio or any sport, amusement or entertainment, is modern and is supposed to be a contraction of "fanatic." The theory, as often advanced by popular writers, that "fan" in this sense is derived from the verb "to fan," meaning blow upon, to stimulate or to excite, is discredited by philologists. This word apparently came to general use sometime between 1880 and 1900. It is supposed with some reason that it originated with Chris Von der Ahe, owner of the St. Louis Browns. Sometime in the 80's Von der Ahe said that Charles Haas was the greatest baseball fanatic he had ever seen. After that baseball enthusiasts were called "fanatics," which was soon shortened to "fan." It is an interesting fact that centuries ago "fan" was frequently used as a contraction of "fanatic" in the literal sense of that word.